the dredgers of the Dredging Corporation of India.

Setting up of Transmitters at Gadwal and Hindupur in Andhra Pradesh

*22. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up transmitters at Gadwal in Mahabubnagar District and Hindupur in Ananthapur District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to replace low power transmitters by high power ones in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) what progress has so far been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c) A scheme for establishment of low power TV transmitters at Gadwal and Hindupur has been included in the draft VIII Plan of Doodarshan. Schemes for the establishment of a high power (10 KW) TV transmitter each at Ananthapur and Tirupati (in replacement of the existing low power transmitters at these places) are already under implementation. At Ananthapur, construction of the transmitter building and RCC portion of TV tower has been completed. The installation of the transmitter equipment has commenced and the project is expected to be completed during 1990-91. However, arrangements have been made to operate the transmitter at reduced power of 1 KW by the end of the current financial year (1989-90).

At Tirupati, levelling and foundation work pertaining to the transmitter building is in progress. Foundation work of the TV tower has been completed and work for construction of superstructure awarded. The project is expected to be completed during 1991.

Expert Committee on Excellence in Postal services

*23. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee on excellence in postal services set up in 1987 had, in its report, pointed out several weaknesses in the postal services in the country;

(b) if so, what are the major weaknesses in the postal management pointed out by the Expert Committee;

(c) what measures have been taken so far or are proposed to be taken by Government to remove these weaknesses;

(d) whether Government have spelt out its long-term organisational and financial objectives in the postal services in the country; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISITER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (e) The Expert Committee on Excellence in Postal Services in its Report submitted in December, 1988 has identified 17 areas of weaknesses and 7 areas of strength in the Department of Post. The weaknesses identified by the Committee can be broadly classified into the following 4 major areas:

(a) Organisational

(b) Service Quality

(c) Financial and

(d) Low Level of Technology

35 recommendations contained in its Interim Report and 90 recommendations contained in the Final Report have sought to overcome the weaknesses of the Department and improve the quality of service.

Laying down the financial objectives of the postal services of the country requires careful examination taking into account the need for providing a reasonably low cost service to the people and at the same time reducing the dependence of the postal service on the general revenues. This is a continuous exercise.

The recommendations on the organisational restructuring made by the Expert Committee in its final report made available in November, 1989 are being processed. Regarding the recommendations on improving the quality of service, several task forces have been appointed to operationalise these recommendations and a beginning has been made in several areas like review of mail and delivery offices, laying down norms for urban delivery Post Offices and such other cost effective measures to improve mail services.

Regarding upgrading of Technology, areas needing mechanisation and computerisation have been identified for phased implementation during the 8th Plan.

Relations with Nepal

*24. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to improve relations with Nepal during the visit by the Nepalese Foreign Minister in February, 1990; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the acquisition of a large quantity of Chinese weaponry by Nepal has become a stumbling block in improving these relations; if so, what is Nepal's stand on the supply of Chinese arms to Nepal in violation of Indo-Nepal Treaty; and

(c) what are the reasons for not taking early initiatives to improve relations with Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) Government have taken early initiatives to improve our relations with Nepal. The Nepalese Foreign Minister, Shri S. K. Upadhyay, visited India from January 3 to 5, 1990. The discussions during his visit contributed to greater understanding of each other's interests and concerns.

Subsequently, official level talks were held between India and Nepal on February 20-21, 1990. They covered a wide range of subjects of mutual interest, trade, transit, economic cooperation, security perceptions, treatment of each others nationals, cooperation in the fields of industry, water resources etc. Progress was made towards a comprehensive appreciation of all outstanding problems.

It was agreed that during the next round of official talks, work would begin on documents to strengthen the close and age old Indo-Nepal relationship on an enduring basis.

Ship-repairing complex at Haldia

*25. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for opening a ship repairing complex at Haldia in West Bengal; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any efforts have been made by Government to provide adequate finance for the establishment